

2015 JUN -1 AM 8:18

Ever had the feeling of striking out? Or having that one nice home run hit but then it suddenly gets caught? We are down by two points in the seventh inning with two outs, you have three balls and two strikes on you: the tying runner is at first base and you are the one who will bring home that victory. The ball is pitched right down the pipe and you make contact sending the ball towards outfield. As you round first base, you realize that the girl had caught the ball and the runner that was on first had only advanced to second base. The feeling of losing and disappointment now becomes a reality. Like letting down your team, it hurts knowing that you walked out on your family.

I wish things were different between me and you. It hurts knowing that you walked out on your only family who stood by your side. Do you even miss how close we were before? Do you ever reminisce of the relationship that we had? I have always imagined having that father figure who would be physically there. Every day I come home feeling upset, sad, abandoned, not worthy enough for you to stick around. What kills me the most is knowing that you will be having a child and how he will be raised by my dad. Dad, when will you stop hurting me and start focusing on the daughter who always been there, who always had hope, who just wants her dad? My mom turned to alcohol for comfort, my younger sister continued her rebellious ways, and my baby brother clung to every man. Not only did my mom drown her pain in a bottle, her words and actions became very ugly, and she even became suicidal. How can she even think or attempt to that level and leave us just like our father did, but permanently.

Hi, my name is Katherine Lundgren-Aiwohi and I am a member of the Nanakuli Boys and Girls Club. For as long as I could remember, my dad was in and out of my life. My home is not so sweet, it's filled with too much misery, struggle, pain, and frustration. As my dad's drug addiction worsened, I had to step up and help my mother. The Boys and Girls Club because my 'get away' place where I did not need to worry about my problems. It filled all those gaps that my father left me with. Looking back, I realized how much the club took me away from the negative I had going on in my life. The club influenced me to find closure with my dad so I can move past

this adversity and begin making myself happy. Ashley played a big role, she encouraged me to keep on dreaming, pushing, and working hard. Without her, I would not have that guidance and support that she gives me to keep succeeding and staying positive. The staff at the Nanakuli Boys and Girls Club helped me to overcome the problems I face at home and to help me find positive alternative choices and make right decisions. Joining the Leader's In Training program has been the right decision that I made because it prepared me to be a leader to other club members, students, and my family. I'm here with the opportunity to show how the Nanakuli Boys and Girls Club influenced my life and had molded me to become ambitious and excel in all I do.

In a game of softball, you learn not to give up halfway through the game, and that there is always hope until that last pitch, and despite all the strikes thrown at you, to keep on pushing through. Although I did not get the home run that I wished for, the boys and girls club is the path of which I took that became my home run victory. As I am the backbone of my family, the club is the backbone of my life.

K.L. 5/29/15